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Requirements for [REDACTED] (ORR 9758)

1. What is the relationship, if any, between CEMA and the Soviet organization GUES (Glavnoye Upravleniye po delam Ekonomicheskikh Svyazey)?
2. What accounts for the considerable disparity that often exists between Soviet and Satellite announced figures on intra-bloc trade?
3. In your opinion, what is the Soviet rationale for maintaining such a high degree of secrecy on foreign trade data when they have to some degree relaxed similar restrictions on other economic data?
4. Has the Soviet Union's pre-war quest for national self sufficiency been tempered in the post war period by increasing Bloc strength and economic integration?
5. How critical is Poland's foreign exchange crisis? How large are its debts to Free World countries and what form do they take -- commercial credit, secured loans, etc.? What efforts are being made to solve its foreign exchange problems?
6. How does source assess the relative importance of economic and political factors in the current attempt of the Bloc to expand trade with underdeveloped Western countries?
7. Was all Polish coal sold to the USSR until recently at a price considerably below the world price or just coal sold under the Soviet-Polish reparations agreement? If the latter, was non-reparations coal sold at world market prices?
8. Do you know the value of total Polish foreign trade? The value of trade with the Bloc, the USSR and China? We are especially interested in 1953, 1954 and 1955 figures.
9. In the new Five-year Plan, how does Polish-USSR trade and Polish-Satellite trade compare in volume with the volume of such trade over the past five years? Is any shift in the commodity composition of Polish-USSR trade foreseen in the new Five-year Plan?

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10. Does Poland require minimum gold holdings? If so, has it been able to maintain the required levels? And if so, what is the rationale for such gold backing in view of the other controls that Bloc countries have over the amount of currency in circulation?

11. Does the USSR maintain a unified foreign exchange rate with both Bloc and Western countries?

12. Why doesn't the official ruble exchange rate more adequately reflect the ratio between international and domestic price levels?

13. How are ruble foreign trade prices established within the Bloc? Do they reflect domestic costs or are they based upon international prices? What is the relative importance of each of these factors? Do domestic price reforms affect foreign trade prices?

14. Is there any attempt to pool hard currencies within the Bloc in the same way that the sterling area pools dollars?

15. What elements of multilateralism exist in intra-Bloc trade? Doesn't the Bloc find bilateralism too restrictive and inflexible? Wouldn't multilateral clearing within the Bloc facilitate an expansion of trade?

16. What is the Bloc attitude toward the voluntary multilateral clearing between the Bloc and West Europe proposed by the EGE?

17. What is the significance of the exchange rates between the ruble and other Bloc currencies? Do these rates reflect relative domestic price levels? (Note: Commodity trade within the Bloc appears to be conducted in rubles. Thus intra-Bloc exchange rates may pertain only to non-commodity transactions.)

18. What is the significance of the gold ruble when the ruble is not used in trade with the West? Why was the ruble appreciated in value in 1950?

19. When the Bloc countries state the value of foreign trade, do they include merely commodity trade? Are the definitions used in Bloc foreign trade statistics the same as those in the Free World, e.g., are exports recorded by country of destination and imports by country of origin? Are foreign trade statistics based on the domestic price of the traded article or the foreign trade price? How are re-exports handled?

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20. Do Central Bank records serve as the basis for Polish foreign trade statistics? Or are customs records the basis?

21. Are bilateral trade agreements actually balanced independently, or is it frequently necessary to resort to multilateral clearings or other switch operations? With increasing specialization of production within the Bloc is it likely that multilateral settlements will increase. If so, will these multilateral settlements be affected within the bilateral framework?

22. In view of the difference in the Bloc between domestic prices and foreign trade prices, when the latter have been converted into domestic currency at official exchange rates, what special banking practices are involved? If the cost of an import, when translated into domestic currency, is higher than the official domestic price, who pays for the difference? In the opposite case who gets the surplus?

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